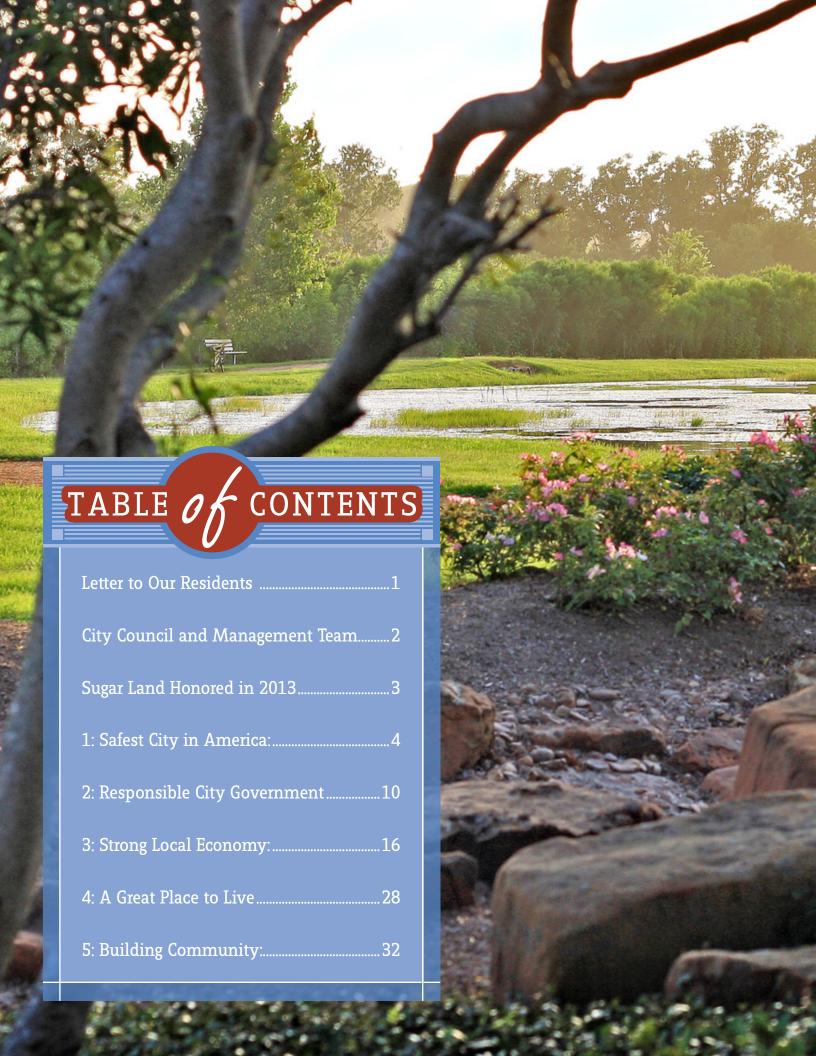


# Annual Report

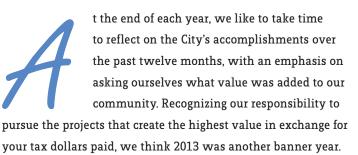
City of Sugar Land, Texas



# LETTER to our RESIDENTS



**James A. Thompson**Mayor



We were successful in efforts to grow business investment in the community—reaffirming our status as one of the Houston region's favored employment centers and business destinations through the recruitment and retention of many major companies. Additionally, we celebrated another incredibly successful year at Constellation Field, marked the tenth anniversary of Sugar Land Town Square and made major progress on the future \$83.6 million, estimated 6,500-seat indoor performing arts center—approving a development agreement with ACE SL, LLC and a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) agreement with Linbeck Group, LLC.

In our efforts to provide residents with exceptional service and responsible governance, we launched a new website that utilizes new technology and improves service delivery by enhancing compatibility with mobile browsers and creating the opportunity for residents to electronically submit service requests on a 24/7 basis.

We completed the reconstruction of Dulles Avenue, the construction of a new 1.8-mile stretch of University Boulevard South, and the extension of Lexington Boulevard—furthering our goal of superior mobility. Recognizing mobility goes beyond the car, the Public Works Department also completed the removal and replacement of approximately 125,000 linear feet of sidewalk.

Once again, Sugar Land was recognized as one of the safest cities in Texas and the United States. We continued our efforts to enhance public safety by utilizing technology and approving



**Allen Bogard**City Manager

a policy to closely guide the use of an expanded future crime prevention camera program. Further, we approved plans to move forward with a fire-based EMS and ambulance system by January 2015 in order to improve the delivery of lifesaving emergency medical service in Sugar Land.

In November, the City gave residents an opportunity to choose whether or not to authorize property taxes to fund parks projects identified through years of community input and voters approved bonds totaling \$31.5M. These dollars will fund the development of 128 acres of new parkland along the Brazos River with an adjacent festival site, as well as a connecting network of nearly 10 miles of hike and bike trails and bridges.

Without a doubt, 2013 was another fantastic year for Sugar Land—both for residents and businesses—because of enhanced public safety, a stronger local economy, making it easier for citizens to connect with City Hall, improving our mobility and creating opportunities to experience arts and entertainment without ever leaving Sugar Land. We hope you agree.

Yet, above all of these accomplishments, we remain most proud of the fact that we are consistently able to successfully deliver such major projects and quality-of-life improvements while having one of the lowest tax rates in the State of Texas. It is this emphasis on value for tax dollars that may just be our greatest accomplishment of all.

Congratulations to you on another successful year and best wishes in 2014!

Harrica 1 Thompson -

James A. Thompson *Mayor* 

ach Bogal

Allen Bogard City Manager

#### 2013 City Council (from left to right)



**HIMESH GANDHI** At-Large Position One **AMY L. MITCHELL** Single Member District Three

JOE R. **ZIMMERMAN** At-Large Position Two

**HARISH JAJOO** Single Member **District Four** 

**STEVE R. PORTER** Single Member District One

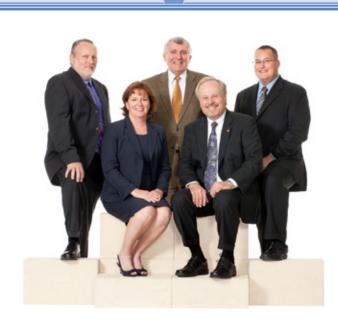
**JAMES A. THOMPSON** 

Mayor

**BRIDGET R. YEUNG** 

Mayor Pro Tem Single Member District Two

#### The City's Management Team (from left to right)



**JIM CALLAWAY** 

**Executive Director of Community Development**  **STEVE GRIFFITH** 

First Assistant City Manager

**MIKE GOODRUM** 

**Executive Director of Management Services** 

**KAREN DALY** Assistant City Manager

**ALLEN BOGARD** City Manager

# Sugar Land Honored in 2013

The City of Sugar Land received regional, state and national recognition for its services, initiatives and innovative programs in 2013.

- Sugar Land was once again rated among the safest cities in America, and the second safest in Texas, according to FBI crime statistics.
- Constellation Field was awarded two 2013 Landmark Awards from the Houston Business Journal in the categories of "Community Impact" and "Hospitality and Entertainment".
- Sugar Land was recognized as a "Community of Respect" by the Anti-Defamation League for the sixth year in a row since becoming the nation's first award recipient at the inception of the program.
- Four awards were given to the City for its enhanced solid waste program:
  - The Gulf Coast Recycling Council: Leadership Award for Outstanding New or Expanded Recycling Program
  - The Texas Solid Waste Association of North America: 2013 Finest Award for Recycling Excellence
  - Keep Texas Beautiful: *Government Award*
  - The State of Texas Alliance for Recycling: Environmental Leadership Award

- The City's University Boulevard South construction project was recognized by the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works Association as the Large Transportation Project of the Year.
- Fire Station No. 7 achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification.
- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality honored the City with its Outstanding Public Water System Award.
- The City's Accounting and Budget Departments received awards of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.
- GlobalSelect was once again rated one of the top Fixed Base
   Operators (FBOs) in the United States and was in the top 5
   percent of FBOs in the Americas.
- Numerous awards were received for City events, such as the Star Spangled Spectacular, New Year's Eve on the Square, Memorial Day Ceremony and Eggstravaganza.



# Safest City in America

Feeling Safe, Rapid Response —

The City continues to maintain one of the lowest crime rates in the nation for all cities of similar size. The City achieves this by:

- providing a rapid, effective and coordinated response to emergencies utilizing the City's Police, Fire, EMS and Public Works Departments;
- maintaining strong regional public safety and community partnerships;
- maintaining a low crime rate in Sugar Land through the use of effective technology, crime prevention tools and emergency preparedness;

- continuing to improve and enhance public safety at all levels, meeting challenges large and small—from eliminating sidewalk trip hazards to responding to critical incidents with the East Division of the Fort Bend SWAT unit; and
- improving all-hazards and disaster preparedness,
   response and recovery through better coordination
   and intergovernmental cooperation.

The City's public safety dispatchers answer an average of 13,000 telephone calls per month. When police or firefighters are needed, 97 percent of the calls are dispatched within 50 seconds.



## PUBLIC SAFETY

- By the Numbers -

**SLPD** 

Officers

149

**Adult Arrests** 

3,009

Charges Filed

28,011

Citations Issued

21,506

**SWAT Unit Incidents** 

16

**Emergency Responses** 

**703** 

Emergency Response Time (in minutes)

4:46

Non-emergency Responses

32,284

**SLFD** 

**Firefighters** 

**103** 

**Total Responses** 

7,362

Medical Responses

4,517

Fire Response Time (in minutes)

5:20

HazMat incidents

132

Structure Fires

**22** 

Fires

188

Free Smoke Alarms Installed

66

Inspections

3,352

Community Outreach (fire drills, station tours, etc.)

26,098

#### Fire Department

The City of Sugar Land's Fire Department provides superior fire protection and emergency services to its residents. Of the 188 fires in Sugar Land in 2013, only 22 were structural fires. The others were outdoor cooking, trash and debris, grass and car fires. For a city of 84,511 residents, this is a great accomplishment.

Such a low number of fires in Sugar Land is due to the City led effort of code enforcement in the Fire Department's prevention division. The fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, public education officers, inspectors and investigators are engaged with the community through presentations, the installation of smoke alarms, programs delivered in schools, station tours, home safety surveys, business inspections, fire drills, fire extinguisher trainings and special events.



# Did you know?

The City of Sugar Land's Fire Station No. 7 received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification in 2013. The fire station's environmentally conscious construction and sustainable practices make it the City's first LEED certified building.

Sugar Land continues to be rated well by ISO (formerly Insurance Services Office, Inc.), a third-party, unbiased company that evaluates cities in terms of safety and serves as a resource to insurance companies. The ISO rating provides a measure of how well buildings would withstand a fire or other natural disaster. Factors considered include the dispatch and 911 systems and the strength and distribution of the City's water system. The rating reflects the overall availability of staffing, the types and distribution of fire apparatus, the equipment carried and the training records of the department and its personnel. The City of Sugar Land's rating of 2 translates to low homeowners insurance rates for residents.



#### Police Department

The City's number one priority is safety. In 2013, Sugar Land was rated one of the safest cities in Texas. The Sugar Land Police Department meets the highest standards of any police department in the nation and is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Officers maintain a presence on the streets with patrol services provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. To assist in identifying problems, officers attend homeowner association meetings, assist in forming and meeting with neighborhood watch groups and monitor criminal activity reports. The City's goal is to reduce crime to achieve and maintain the lowest crime rate in the Houston area and to be one of the safest cities in America.

The Police Department enhanced its training capabilities in 2013 to include leadership command training for all sergeants, lieutenants, captains, assistant chiefs and the chief of police. In addition, all sworn officers were trained in dealing with suspects with mental health issues. Every officer learned how to recognize signs of mental disabilities, how to assess the individual and what additional resources are available. Sugar Land's Police Department is recognized as one of the only agencies in Fort Bend County with this training and will be assisting other agencies to incorporate this topic in their trainings.

The Police Department automated its accident investigations to an online reporting system. Now officers can immediately upload their reports to an online server that goes directly to the Department of Motor Vehicles. This process speeds up the reporting procedure and reduces clerical errors when transcribing the reports. In addition, citizens can now go online to retrieve a copy of their accident report rather than having to go to the police station in person.

The City of Sugar Land Police Department is part of a regional multijurisdictional SWAT Team, known as Fort Bend Regional SWAT. The unit comprises two divisions, East and West. The East division is made up of Police Departments from Sugar Land, Missouri City and Stafford. The West division is made up of the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office and the Rosenberg Police Department.

The East Fort Bend Regional SWAT Team was called to action 16 times in 2013. SWAT officers served 12 warrants and had three callouts for barricaded subjects. The East division's sniper team conducted intelligence gathering for the West Fort Bend Regional SWAT team.







## Emergency Management

The City is prepared for natural disasters.

The Emergency Management and Engineering

Departments developed an improved flood

management plan. The plan has been incorporated

into both the City of Sugar Land's Emergency

Operations Plans and the Fort Bend County Emergency

Operations Plan.

- City officials met with the City's nine Levee
   Improvement Districts to introduce the new
   flood management plan and explain Sugar
   Land's role in responding to flooding events.
- In 2013, the Emergency Management
  Department was awarded an Emergency
  Management Performance Grant in the amount
  of \$44,000. This grant provides resources
  to assist state, local, tribal and territorial
  governments in preparing for all hazards,
  as authorized by the Disaster Relief and
  Emergency Assistance Act. The City of Sugar
  Land is reimbursed for expenses related to
  core capabilities in the areas of prevention,
  protection, mitigation, response and recovery.
- Incident Stress Management Team, composed of members from the Police Department, Fire Department, Emergency Management and Public Safety Dispatch. The team provides services to City and Fort Bend County personnel. It is deployed immediately after a critical event, such as a shooting involving an officer, an in-custody death or other major events that are beyond the typical day-to-day calls for service.
- To enhance radio communications between
  City staff without any cost to taxpayers,
  the City donates its older 800 MHZ radios to
  several non-public safety departments. In
  2013, personnel at the airport and several City
  vehicles were outfitted with mobile radios to
  ensure good communication during incidents.





# 2

# **Responsible City Government**

# Financially Sound, Exceptional Service

The City of Sugar Land works hard to ensure that its citizens receive good value for their tax dollars.

# Financially Sound

The City of Sugar Land maintained a strong financial performance in fiscal year 2013 (Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013) with conservative expenditure levels and continued outstanding AAA credit ratings for the third year in a row.

The City takes pride in preparing a fiscally conservative budget, which eliminates any spending cuts during the fiscal year and maintains high quality services to residents. The budget adopted by City Council each year provides the maximum amount of funding for the fiscal year. When revenues come in higher than anticipated, as they did in fiscal year 2013, those funds are available for one-time items or capital needs, or they are placed in reserve to meet unexpected expenses.

#### Low Tax Rate

The City has been able to maintain one of the lowest tax rates among Texas cities with a population greater than 25,000 according to the Texas Municipal League's 2013 survey. Sales tax collections have been consistent throughout the year, and major commercial building activity has resumed as a result of a substantial effort put forth by City Council and City staff. Sugar Land Regional Airport, a

self-supporting operation, exceeded estimates on fuel sales to corporate customers. Water and wastewater revenues continue to support the City's water utility operations and are reinvested for improvements to the system.

#### Capital Improvement Projects

Capital project expenditures increased in fiscal year 2013 due to ongoing construction on the surface water treatment plant, the largest capital project undertaken by the City to date. The \$69 million project was completed in fiscal year 2013, and plant operations began in November 2013. Other major capital project milestones included:

- work on wastewater collection systems rehabilitation;
- the reconstruction of Burney Road
- the repair of more than 125,000 lineal feet of sidewalks
- construction of a new elevated water storage tank;
- upgrades to Dulles Avenue;
- construction of University Boulevard to Brazos
   Landing; and
- park land acquisition in Telfair.

A more complete narrative of budgeted revenues and expenditures can be found in the fiscal year 2013 budget book.

#### SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS

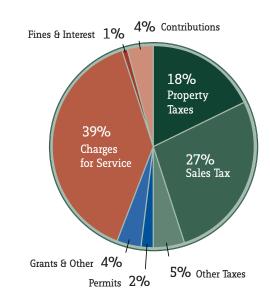
(UNAUDITED)

REVENUES	FY12 ACTUAL	FY13 ACTUAL	PERCENT CHANGE
Property Taxes	\$ 28,242,085	\$ 29,874,616	5.8%*
Sales Tax	43,201,823	44,965,164	4.1%
Other Taxes	7,603,664	8,019,978	5.5%
Permits	2,321,285	2,724,435	17.4%
Grants & Other	4,117,799	6,441,757	56.4%
Charges for Service	61,420,536	63,975,033	4.2%
Fines & Interest	3,574,564	2,106,376	-41.1%
Contributions	7,578,014	6,325,896	-16.5%
Total Operating Revenues	158,059,770	164,433,254	4.0%
Bond Proceeds	32,171,260	20,870,823	-35.1%
	32,171,200	20,070,023	-23,T /0
Transfers from other funds	51,177,574	32,011,683	-37.4%
Total Available Resources	241,408,605	217,315,759	-10.0%

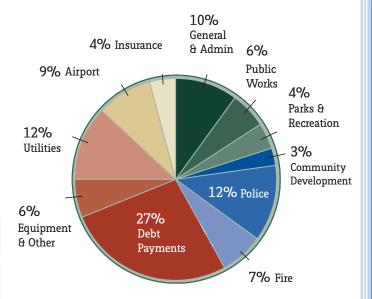
EXPENDITURES	FY12 ACTUAL	FY13 ACTUAL	PERCENT CHANGE
General & Admin	13,071,886	14,739,295	12.8%**
Public Works	8,564,360	8,587,538	0.3%
Parks & Recreation	4,769,751	5,440,838	14.1%
Community Development	4,963,745	4,778,623	-3.7%
Police	17,340,371	17,346,497	0.0%
Fire	10,236,810	10,214,184	-0.2%
Debt Payments	45,631,218	39,172,238	-14.2%
Equipment & Other	7,758,245	8,281,994	6.8%
Utilities	17,426,687	18,303,056	5.0%
Airport	14,726,672	14,090,671	-4.3%
Insurance	6,205,066	6,477,560	4.4%
Total Operating Expenditures	150,694,810	147,432,494	-2.2%
Construction	34,985,902	84,050,621	140.2%
Transfers to other funds	51,177,574	32,011,683	-37.4%
Total Expenditures & Transfers	236,858,286	263,494,797	11.2%

<sup>\*</sup>includes new construction

## ALLOCATION OF OPERATING REVENUES



# ALLOCATION OF OPERATING EXPENDITURES



<sup>\*\*</sup>includes one-time cost of setting up Emergency Medical Service



Estimated Population: 84,511

Tax Rate: 30.895 cents

Property Tax Base: \$9.7 Billion 10 year change (2004-2013): up 70% from \$5.7 Billion

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget: \$181.59 Million

#### Exceptional Service

The City of Sugar Land provides exceptional services to its residents. Examples of some of these accomplishments include the successful implementation of:

- the City's 2013 State Legislative Agenda during the 83rd Texas
   Legislature, including tracking over 1,700 City-related bills;
- City Council's adoption of its annual work plan that includes
   42 initiatives and projects;
- an online service for the municipal court that allows defendants to pay citations, ask for an extension and request a driver safety course; and
- software to manage performance obligations and/or maintenance and operational standards that must be met on a recurring basis depending on varying requirements in each contract.

#### Water

The Utilities Department provides customers with water and wastewater services. The department oversees the City's water supplies, treatment and distribution as well as wastewater collection, treatment and customer service. Drinking water, as well as wastewater that is discharged into lakes and streams, meet all state and federal regulatory requirements.

- More than 12,000 tests are performed each year on the drinking water to ensure its safety for the consumers.
- The City performs 4,350 wastewater tests to avoid contamination of local streams.
- Both the City's water and wastewater systems are operated by state-certified operators. The department has 30 licensed operators, and three of them are among 826 statewide operators with the highest certifications.
- The dedicated work of the Utilities Department personnel contributed to the City being recognized as one of only three cities in Texas, which has more than 7,000 public water systems, to be awarded the "Outstanding Public Water System Award" for 2013.
- The City of Sugar Land is also recognized by the state as a "Superior Public Water System," a recognition the City has maintained for many years.



#### Surface Water Treatment Plant

Much of 2013 was focused on the completion of a \$69 million surface water treatment plant. The plant represents more than 10 years of planning and is the City's largest and most complex capital improvement construction project ever undertaken. The plant is the City's first surface water treatment facility and will purify water from Oyster Creek to drinking water standards. The 9 million gallonper-day facility produces water that is being blended with the City's groundwater, which allows the wells to be pumped at a lesser volume.

The plant was built to meet the Fort Bend Subsidence District's mandate to achieve a 30 percent reduction of groundwater use by 2014. Initiated and administered by the Utilities Department, the City has partnered with local well owners and communities on a Groundwater Reduction Plan (GRP) to meet this targeted reduction. The surface water treatment plant is a key component of this plan. All 17 GRP participants are financial participants in the GRP.

#### Water Capacity Expanded

A 2 million-gallon elevated storage tank along U.S. Highway 59 at the Brazos River was put into service in September. This is the last elevated storage tank needed to provide Sugar Land residents with a consistent water supply as growth continues. Its location was selected based on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) height clearance requirements for airport flight paths. The new tank is a composite elevated tank that looks different than the other elevated tanks within the City. This tank consists of a concrete pedestal and a steel bowl that will hold the water up to 160 feet above ground. This is required to maintain water system pressure throughout the service area.

#### Table 1

#### WATER

Annual system demand (billion gallons)	6.05
Maximum peak daily demand (million gallons)	29.97
System capacity (million gallons per day)	46.6
Daily average demand (million gallons)	16.26
Daily average demand per capita (gallons)	196
Number of wells	17
Average well depth (feet)	1,250
Ground storage capacity (million gallons)/15 tanks	12
Elevated storage capacity (million gallons)/5 tanks	6.2
Miles of distribution line	431
Number of water meters	28,001
Number of fire hydrants	4,000
Number of valves	5,372

#### Table 2

#### WASTEWATER

System treatment capacity (million gallons per day)	13.5
Daily average wastewater treated (million gallons)	8.07
Number of lift stations	101
Miles of collection lines	395
Number of wastewater treatment facilities	2
Number of industrial pre-treatment permittees	8



#### Water Conservation

Water conservation was promoted through a number of programs in 2013.

- The Groundwater Reduction Plan sponsored 2,100 Sugar Land area students in the Learning to be Water Wise education program. The program teaches fourth- and fifth-grade students the importance of water conservation. Educational materials and water conservation kits are provided at no cost to schools or students. In addition, water conservation presentations were given to 156 elementary school students.
- A voluntary irrigation zone schedule was launched in 2013. The schedule encourages residential watering at prescribed times and on specific days based on four geographic zones. The twice-a-week irrigation schedule benefits lawns, reduces water bills and reduces pressure on the City's water wells and infrastructure. The schedule was promoted at 16 homeowner association meetings.
- Additional conservation resources offered to residents included 283 irrigation system evaluations through the Water Irrigation System Evaluations (W.I.S.E.) Guys program. In addition, the City distributed 26 rain barrels during an annual Water Conservation Workshop hosted by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Home Landscape Series.
- The City of Sugar Land's storm drain marking program is part of a nationwide initiative to educate the public about stormwater pollution. Storm drains are designed to capture and transport rainwater runoff into community waterways to prevent flooding. Anything entering a storm drain is discharged untreated into creeks, lakes and rivers. Some people are unaware of this and dispose of paint, oil and other toxic pollutants in storm drains. Working in collaboration with Keep Sugar Land Beautiful, 117 volunteers marked 895 storm drains and placed 2,726 door tags on residents' doors in an effort to eliminate dumping into storm drains and urban runoff.

#### Animal Services

Sugar Land Animal Services had another record-breaking year with 575 adoptions, up from 500 in 2012. Volunteers donated more than 6,407 hours of their time, which made it possible for staff members to participate in several offsite adoption events. For example, the City participated in the third annual Hunting for Homes mega adoption event at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds. More than 75 animals in Fort Bend County, including 35 from Sugar Land, were adopted.

#### Residential Recycling

In 2013, Sugar Land residents recycled an average of 1,159 tons per month, or 91 pounds per household per month. This resulted in 34 percent of waste being diverted from landfills. Not only is this good for the environment, but recycling also reduces the amount spent to transport trash to landfills.

#### Commercial Recycling

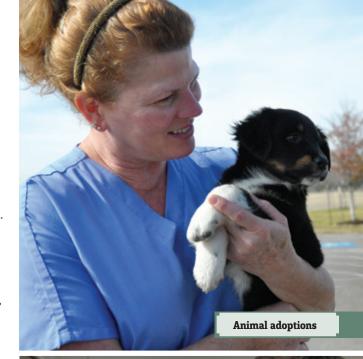
The solid waste division also implemented an exclusive commercial solid waste franchise with Republic Services. The company is now the exclusive provider of any commercial solid waste and construction and demolition projects in Sugar Land that exceed 30 days. This enables the City to offer recycling services to all commercial customers in an effort to divert more materials from landfills. Other benefits include a lower cost, better service, less impact on streets due to using fewer collection vehicles, increased safety and more accountability.

#### Community Development Block Grant

Several key programs ensure that Sugar Land is a safe and livable community. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program again provided funding for several key projects in 2013 that benefited low-to moderate-income residents and focused on infrastructure, public services and housing projects throughout the community. Agencies that received financial assistance from the CDBG in 2013 were the Child Advocates of Fort Bend, the Literacy Council of Fort Bend County, the Fort Bend County Women's Center and the Fort Bend Seniors.

#### Food Inspection

The City's food inspection program operates to ensure that Sugar Land restaurants and vendors serve their patrons safe food. The City works with food establishments and individuals throughout the community to build partnerships focused on providing safe and sanitary food options to the residents and visitors of Sugar Land.





Food Inspections: 1,061

Pre-opening and Ownership Change Inspections: 129

Permits for

Temporary Events: 193

Construction/Remodel Plans Reviewed: 132





The Sugar Land Development Corporation (SLDC) was voter-approved to promote, assist and enhance economic development activities in the City of Sugar Land. Sugar Land 4B Corporation (SL4B) was also voter approved to develop and prepare an economic development plan in accordance with policies or directives established by City Council. Both of these non-profits collect a quarter-cent sales tax that directly funds economic development programs and City activities. The focus of SLDC is business recruitment and retention initiatives, while SL4B focuses more on quality-of-life initiatives and strategic development projects.

Sugar Land's stable local economy provides an excellent location for relocating and expanding firms to thrive. In fiscal year 2013, several significant relocations, including Fortune 500 firms that operate internationally as well as other national and local firms, were announced. These projects will result in more than \$23 million in capital investment, 925 new and 150 retained jobs in Sugar Land and more than 266,000 square feet of newly constructed or leased space.

#### Business Relocations

UnitedHealthcare relocated into over 193,000 square feet in the Sugar Creek on the Lake office building at 245 Commerce Green Blvd. along U.S. Highway 59 in early November 2013. They are expected to bring 1,000 jobs. Additionally, the former Unocal building has gone through extensive interior renovations in which the owner, PMRG, has invested more than \$13 million.

Cosentino North America distributes and markets natural quartz and natural stone surfaces in North America. In June, the company moved its U.S. headquarters and new support center to Sugar Land Town Square. The 25,000-square-foot space at 2245 Texas Ave. includes an auditorium for the support center's trainings, demonstrations and events. This new business in Sugar Land supports 100 jobs.

#### Table 3

#### 2013 NEW PROJECT IMPACTS

New Jobs	925
Retained Jobs	150
New Capital Investment	More than \$23 Million
New Facility Construction/Leases	More than 266,000 square feet



#### Business Expansions

**CVR Energy**, a diversified holding company primarily engaged in the petroleum refining and nitrogen fertilizer manufacturing industries, added approximately 11,000 square feet and is in the process of adding an additional 5,000 square feet to its Sugar Land Town Square office at 2277 Plaza Dr. With these expansions, the company headquarters will occupy over 38,000 square feet. The company has 120 employees.

Petronash Americas LLC, known for manufacturing high quality equipment essential for the oil and gas industry, is in the process of expanding its production and assembly operations by building a 15,000-square-foot facility and adding 20 jobs—a \$10 million capital investment. Petronash currently owns a 40,000-square-foot facility located in the Sugar Land Business Park at 12633 Reed Road.

**Servomex**, an international expert in gas analysis, expanded its operations and relocated from 8,000 square feet into 25,000 square feet in the Sugar Land Business Park at 525 Julie Rivers Dr. This expansion added five jobs, bringing the total number of Servomex employees in Sugar Land to 35.

#### Projects in Progress

Fluor Corporation is the largest U.S. based, publicly traded engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance services firm. Its subsidiary, **Fluor Enterprises**, one of Sugar Land's longtime employers, closed on a 50-acre site in Telfair at the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 59 and University Boulevard. Over \$165 million in new capital will be invested and 2,800 jobs retained when Fluor relocates from its current campus by 2021.

Texas Instruments, Inc. (TI) serves the world's most innovative electronics companies with analog and digital semiconductor design and manufacturing. It operates in more than 35 countries serving more than 90,000 customers worldwide and has approximately 35,000 employees worldwide. TI is building a new 160,000-square-foot business and development facility at the southeast corner of U.S. Highway 59 and University Boulevard in Telfair, resulting in over \$35 million in new capital investment and more than 375 jobs. Completion is expected in mid-2014.

#### Completed Projects

**TEAM Industrial** is a leading industrial services company offering an array of specialized services related to the construction, maintenance and monitoring of pressurized piping and associated systems. In January, TEAM moved into approximately 27,000 square feet in the Granite Towers II building on Dairy Ashford, bringing 80 jobs.

Costco Wholesale Corporation's new retail club at the northeast corner of U.S. Highway 59 and University Boulevard opened in July. Over \$10 million in new capital was invested and 150 jobs created.

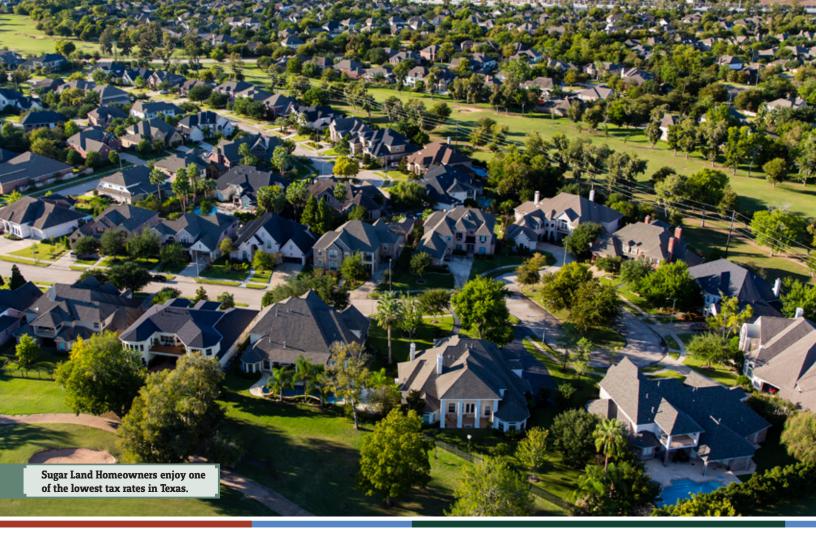
Accredo Packaging, manufacturer of specialized multi-layer barrier film for food and consumer products, added a 145,000-square-foot building adjacent to an existing building and a total capital investment of \$32.5 million.

Noble Drilling Services finished its new training facility, the NEXT (Noble Excellence through Technology) Center, in approximately 29,100 square feet of leased space in the Sugar Land Business Park—a total capital investment of \$7.5 million. The facility provides state-of-the-art simulator and classroom-based training for its offshore oil exploration and development crews. The training facility will also generate about 400-500 visitors that will utilize at least 1,600 Sugar Land hotel room nights annually.









# Expanding Commercial Base

At the end of fiscal year 2013, Sugar Land had more than 24.8 million square feet of commercial space. This included 7.9 million square feet of office space, 8 million square feet of retail space and 8.9 million square feet of industrial space.

Sugar Land residents benefit from the location of corporations and other businesses. In addition to the local jobs for residents, they provide substantial financial support to the City that translates into tax savings for residents. While the estimated cost of City services for the average household was \$2,289 in fiscal year 2013, the average tax bill was only \$791 due to commercial properties and sales taxes effectively subsidizing \$1,498 for each household. The City's strong financial performance and excellent management practices add to the strength of these values. See Table 4.

In 2013, the City's property tax rate was the lowest in the state for communities of a similar size due to Sugar Land's strong commercial presence. Sugar Land's rate was 30.895 cents, while the group average was 57.599 cents. The City honors a 7 percent homestead exception for owner occupied homes, further reducing propery taxes.

#### Table 4

#### IMPACT OF COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Space	Square Feet
Office	7.9 million More than 920,000 added since 2008 13% growth
Retail	8 million 359,000 added since 2008, 4.5% growth
Industrial	8.9 million More than 260,000 added since 2008, 3% growth
TOTAL	More than 24.8 million square feet Over 6% growth over the past 5 years

Source: CoStar

	2013
Average City services cost per home	\$2,289
Average City property tax bill	\$791
Commercial subsidy per home	\$1,498

Source: City of Sugar Land, Office of Budget & Research

Valuation per capita is a way of calculating the inherent taxable value or wealth of a community; it is the total taxable value divided by the number of residents. At \$114,783, Sugar Land's valuation per capita is the second highest of any Texas city in its population size group, 60,000–110,000. Of the 16 cities in that population size group, the average valuation per capita is approximately \$61,667. See Table 5.

#### Education and Workforce

Sugar Land's workforce is ahead of the curve with the highest educational attainment in the region. More than 55 percent of the workers have a bachelor's degree or higher. Educational attainment translates into a well-paid workforce.

The City's median household income in 2013 was \$100,768, nearly twice the state's median of \$50,573. Median income is typically used by municipalities and measures the midpoint in the entire range of household incomes; Sugar Land's average household income is \$129,739.

Sugar Land has 46,286 employees. At the end of the fiscal year, Sugar Land's annual unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, significantly lower than the state-wide unemployment rate of 6.4 percent and the national rate of 7.3 percent. See Table 6.

Sugar Land is home to outstanding higher education institutions, including the University of Houston Sugar Land, which offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. Wharton County Junior College is located on the same campus and offers numerous associate programs.

In addition to working to meet the demand for graduate degree programs, the campuses also offer noncredit courses that address community and business needs including language, computer training, healthcare and business classes.

#### Table 5

#### SUGAR LAND VALUATION PER CAPITA

Tax Rate	30.895 cents
Total tax base (billions)	\$9.70
Valuation per capita	\$114,783
As a comparison: Texas cities average valuation per capita with population 60,000–110,000	\$61,667



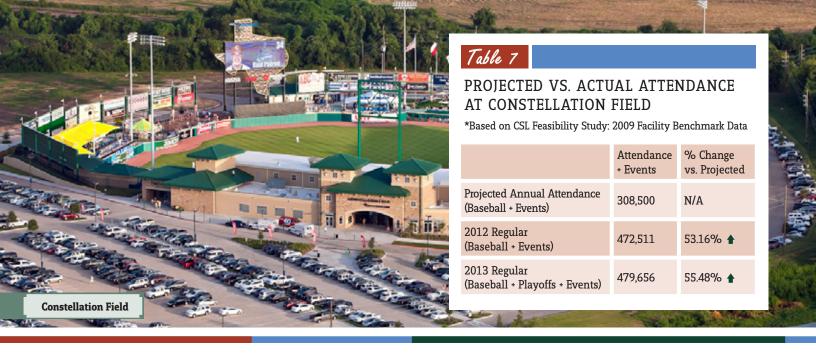
#### Table 6

#### WORKFORCE COMPARISON

	Sugar Land	Texas	U. S.
2013 Educational Attainment (Bachelor's degree or higher)*	55.2%	26.4%	38.4%
2013 Median Household Income*	\$100,768	\$50,573	\$51,314
Unemployment Rate FY13**	4.8%	6.4%	7.3%

<sup>\*</sup>Source: ESRI 2013

<sup>\*\*</sup>Source: Texas Workforce Commission Aug. 2013



#### Constellation Field

After only two years of operation, the City of Sugar Land's Constellation Field has set new standards of quality for a minor league baseball stadium, proving that it enhances Sugar Land's attractiveness as a destination location and strengthens the city's overall economic sustainability.

- The stadium offers professional minor league baseball games and year-round concerts and events.
- A feasibility study performed in 2009 projected the average annual attendance for ballgames and non-baseball events to be 308,500 visitors. Using this benchmark study data, City planners had forecast an annual benefit to the City of \$7.7 million or a return of \$169 million to the economy over 30 years.
- A recent study showed the \$36 million 7,500-seat stadium has exceeded attendance expectations by 55 percent.
- Baseball attendance at Constellation Field is the highest in the Atlantic League. In addition, the stadium realized a significant increase in usage for special events in 2013 with more than 88,000 attendees for non-baseball events that included festivals, charity events, sports tournaments, company events and corporate meetings. See Table 7.
- The destination attraction is the result of many years of work by the City of Sugar Land, its citizens, and a public/private partnership between the City, Opening Day Partners and Johnson Development. Opening Day Partners owns and operates the Sugar Land Skeeters.

No general fund dollars were spent to create the stadium. Constellation Field was funded with a portion of sales tax revenues that may only be used for economic development purposes. These revenues were funded by the Sugar Land 4B Corporation and are not dependent on ballpark revenues. Expenditures by stadium visitors generate sales and hotel occupancy taxes that benefit the City.

Constellation Field opened in April 2012 under budget, and both the ballpark and team quickly gained national recognition.

- The Skeeters organization was named a runner-up for Baseball Digest's 2012 Organization of the Year in 2013.
- Gary Gaetti was named 2013 Manager of the Year
- The stadium was selected for Baseball America's 2013 Great Parks Calendar via fan vote for amenities such as its unique Texas shaped scoreboard.
- Success continued in 2013 as Constellation Field received two 2013 Houston Business Journal Landmark Awards in the "Community Impact" and "Hospitality and Entertainment" categories.
- The Skeeters were the Atlantic League Freedom Division
  Champion for both the first and second half of the season
  and advanced to the Freedom Division playoffs. The Sugar
  Land Skeeters was not only the "winningest" team in
  full-season professional baseball in 2013, but they also
  established an Atlantic League single-season win record
  with 95 wins.

#### Visit Sugar Land

Sugar Land's tourism marketing efforts are now known as Visit Sugar Land Convention and Visitors Services (Visit Sugar Land). The program is 100 percent funded by hotel occupancy tax funds.

The mission of Visit Sugar Land is: (1) to increase the number of visitors and their length of stay in Sugar Land in support of retail, service and hotel businesses and (2) to ensure the success of Sugar Land's existing and planned destination activity centers.

Conferences and tournaments served by Visit Sugar Land in 2013:

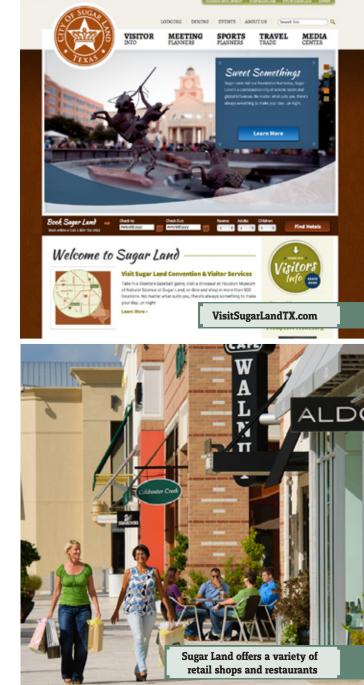
- 2013 National Constables and Marshals Association
   Sugar Land Marriott Town Square
- 2013 Southland Conference Baseball Tournament Constellation Field
- 2013 ESPN Deportes Soccer Tournament Eldridge Park
- 2013 Atlantic League Playoffs
   Constellation Field
- 2013 Tilt-Up Concrete Association Annual Convention
   Sugar Land Marriott Town Square

Visit Sugar Land promotes the city to individual leisure visitors through its website VisitSugarLandTX.com. The tourism website for visitors to Sugar Land was launched in 2013. This centralized resource for people wanting to explore the City promotes Sugar Land as a destination for leisure, business, convention, sports and group tour travelers.

- Visitors can book hotels, search for events, research restaurants and explore local attractions on the site.
- The homepage highlights upcoming events and popular destinations, such as the Constellation Field, the Houston Museum of Natural Science at Sugar Land, Techno Chaos and City parks.
- The site features area maps and searchable directories of Sugar Land's events and tourism businesses.

# Visit Sugar Land E-Newsletter

Visit Sugar Land Convention and Visitors Services has a newsletter at www.VisitSugarLandTX.com for up-to-date information on Sugar Land's events and attractions.







#### Sugar Land Town Square: Ten Years of Success

Sugar Land Town Square is a vibrant community center and notable business district. The 32-acre mixed-use development has won numerous awards, earning a *Houston Business Journal* Landmark Award in 2005 for "Best Community Impact" and another in 2006 for "Best Mixed Use Development." In January 2013, Sugar Land Town Square was a finalist for the Urban Land Institute's Development of Distinction award.

After a decade of development, Sugar Land Town Square has also exceeded original investment estimates by more than \$55 million. Original objectives for the public-private partnership were surpassed even during the national recession. The self-supporting economic development investment has been exceeded. The original investment estimate of \$200 million actually surpassed \$255 million.

The long-term economic benefit to the City of Sugar Land will come through the expiration of the Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) in 2025. The tax revenues generated from the project are utilized to repay debt issued for the development. By the time the TIRZ expires, the City will realize an estimated \$5 million benefit from the development. When the City pays off the last bonds in 2027, the net cumulative economic impact will be \$7.7 million, and thereafter, the City will benefit from approximately \$2.9 million in annual revenues from various taxes (sales, property, hotel and mixed beverage).

Sugar Land Town Square was created through a public-private partnership that included Planned Community Developers (then Sugar Land Properties), the City of Sugar Land, Fort Bend County, Levee Improvement District 2, the Sugar Land Development Corporation, the Sugar Land 4B Corporation, the Sugar Land Town Square TIRZ #1 and the Sugar Land Town Square Development Authority.

#### Sugar Land Performing Arts Center

The Sugar Land Development Corporation (SLDC) approved a design agreement with Martinez & Johnson Architects in September for the final design of Sugar Land's future performing arts venue. The SLDC decision followed Sugar Land City Council's approval of a development agreement in July with ACE SL, LLC (ACE), whose parent company is ACE Theatrical Group, for the design, development and construction of the center.

The economic development strategy for the venue was structured to establish Sugar Land as a destination location for culture and entertainment as well as creating an amenity that is commercially self-sustainable. Construction is expected to begin in 2014 and take about 24 months. The venue will be located on a portion of 38.5 acres of City-owned property in the Telfair commercial district southeast of U.S. Highway 59 and University Boulevard.

Development in this area is slated for commercial, office and entertainment purposes.

Making Sugar Land a destination for culture and entertainment has been a long-held vision of Sugar Land citizens and City Council. A 2007 citizen visioning task force included a performing arts center among its cultural and entertainment venue recommendations.

The City's partner, ACE, will bring the level of live entertainment expertise and high standards of facility management that align with the City's goals for a first-class venue and entertainment experience that until now has not been available.

The City's public-private partnership with ACE began in 2011 with a memorandum of understanding to create a financially feasible, operationally self-sustaining signature facility. A 2008 market analysis and feasibility study and an updated 2012 study performed by CSL International identified that the Houston market did not have a 6,500-seat live entertainment venue and concluded that market demand would support the first financially feasible and commercially sustainable venue of its size in the region. The studies also supported that the performing arts venue in Sugar





Land will promote capital investment, create new jobs, enhance educational opportunities and create unique destination activities attracting local and regional visitors.

Based on voters' approval of the financing tools in 2008 and the City's goal to create a financially feasible and operationally self-sustaining venue, the estimated \$83.6 million performing arts center will be funded through a unique package of special funding sources.

- The City's partner, ACE, will make a \$10 million equity contribution to the project.
- A portion of sales tax revenues that may only be used for economic development purposes and a portion of hotel occupancy tax funds that are restricted to tourism initiatives will be dedicated to the project.
- Rent revenues generated by the facility will also fund the performing arts center.

No general fund tax dollars will be spent on the project that is expected to create an iconic venue for the region.



# Airport

The fourth largest airport in the greater Houston area and the foremost general reliever airport in the southwest sector, Sugar Land Regional Airport (SLRA) has approximately 250 operations—take-offs and landings—daily, accommodating even the largest business jets and serving more than 100 Fortune 500 companies annually. SLRA's close proximity to the Houston/Gulf Coast region, as well as on-site U.S. Customs service, minimizes the travel time for busy regional and international corporate executives alike.

#### Global Select

The airport's fixed based operator (FBO) GlobalSelect was rated fourth in the top 10 U.S. FBOs in *Professional Pilot Magazine* and also in the top 5 percent of FBOs in the Americas according to *Aviation International News*.

#### Airport Improvements

As an enterprise department of the City, SLRA does not rely on property tax support. Hangar leasing and fuel sales are the airport's main revenue sources. The airport underwent a number of renovations in 2013. Using grant money, major improvements were made to the runway pavement, lighting and shoulders. Most of the runway upgrades were done at night to minimize the impact to airport operations.

- The Sugar Land Regional Airport received a grant from the Texas

  Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Aviation Division in the amount

  of \$6.8 million for various runway improvements. The rehabilitation of
  the runway pavement included concrete repair, joint repair and resealing,
  cleaning of the pavement and repainting the runway markings.
- Another improvement was the replacement of the existing runway lighting with new high intensity runway lights. This portion of the project entailed the installation of new runway lights for the entire 8,000-foot runway. The new lights had to be installed adjacent to the existing lights, which had to be kept operational until the new system was completely installed.
- The last part of the project was the addition of 20-feet wide stabilized shoulders to both sides of the runway. In addition to the improved maintenance and safety features, these shoulders also give many business jet customers a greater level of comfort, as many of their wingspans are greater than the 100-foot width of runway.

#### New Pilot School

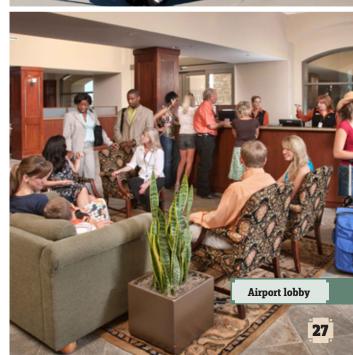
Texas-based flight training provider Anson Air opened its 24,000-squarefoot facility at Sugar Land Regional Airport in 2013. The pilot school caters mainly to the region's piston aircraft community.

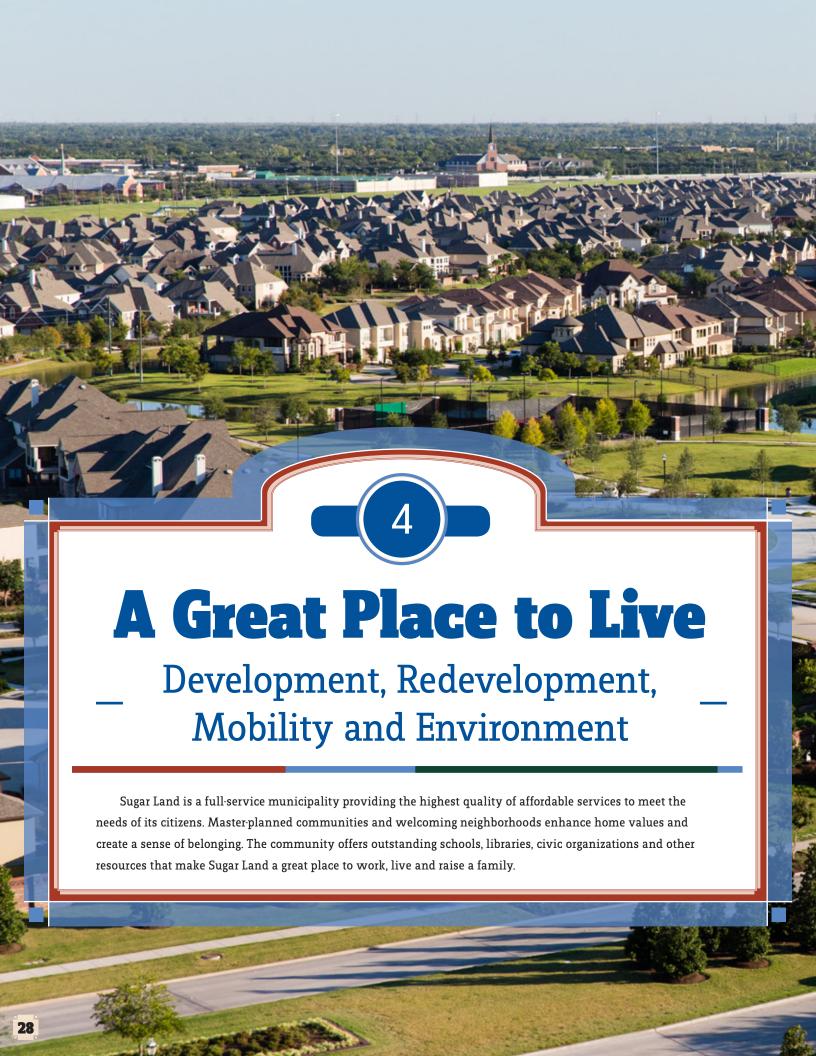
#### Land Acquisition

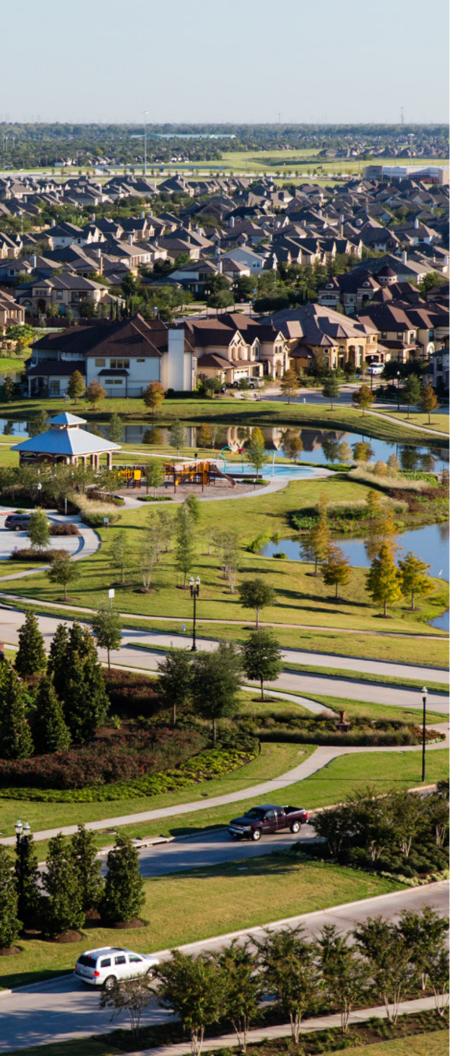
A \$6.5 million Texas Department of Transportation Aviation Division grant was used to purchase 84 acres of Smithville land at the northwest corner of the intersection of State Highway 6 and U.S. Highway 90A. The airport will use a portion of the land to relocate a taxiway and improve drainage.











#### Master Plan Update

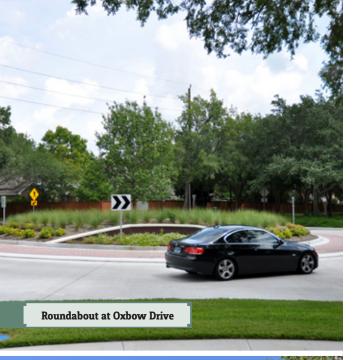
The City completed an update to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. This plan identifies a network of trails, sidewalks and other facilities to connect walkers and cyclists to destinations throughout Sugar Land. The plan's development included extensive outreach to stakeholder groups and the community at large and was guided by an 11-member citizen task force. The plan was adopted by City Council in September 2013 and is available online.

# Mobility

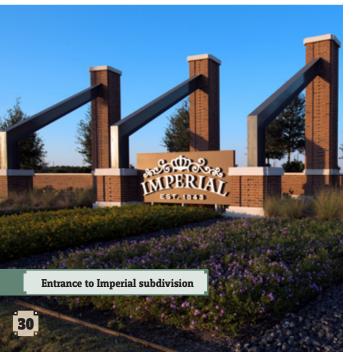
The City secured \$5.96 million in federal matching funds through the Houston-Galveston Area Council's 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program call for projects. This funding will cover 80 percent of project costs: the City would then be responsible for 20 percent of the total—or an additional \$1.49 million. The funds will be used for two projects: (1) the widening of State Highway 6 from six to eight lanes between Lexington Boulevard and Brooks Street and (2) the installation of dynamic message signs along state routes.

The roundabout at the intersection of Lexington Boulevard and Oxbow Drive opened. The western leg of Lexington that connects to University Boulevard opened after completion of road and bridge construction. The total combined investment for this roadway section and intersection surpassed \$4 million.

One of the City's major goals is the maintenance of existing road infrastructure and sidewalks. An annual citywide assessment of pavement and sidewalks allows the City to address the maintenance needs of roadways and walkways throughout Sugar Land. In 2013 the City repaired 20,000 square yards of pavement and 125,000 lineal feet of sidewalks.







## Development

Large scale projects within the Telfair area, south of U.S. Highway 59, were authorized by City Council zoning decisions in 2013. Subdivision platting and site plans were approved for Texas Instruments, with the campus currently under construction. City planners also participated in the preliminary work on the future performing arts center, to be located along Lexington Boulevard adjacent to the future Fluor campus. City Council approved final development plans for residential developments within the Imperial development.

Work continued on development applications and approvals for the Riverstone community within the City's extraterritorial jurisdiction in 2013. This included participation on the Riverstone Connection Study for LJ Parkway, processing and approval of plats for residential neighborhoods and site plan review and approval for the first commercial areas near LJ Parkway and University Boulevard.

Upgrades were made to Dulles Avenue from Lexington Boulevard to U.S. Highway 90A. Intersection improvements were made at State Highway 6, Cartwright Road and Lexington Boulevard and a full reconstruction from Avenue E to U.S. Highway 90A was completed. New sidewalks, irrigation along the median and decorative street lights were installed.

In conjuction with Fort Bend County, improvements on Burney Road from Voss Road to Old Richmond Road to improve mobility and safety along the corridor were completed in 2013. That section of Burney Road was widened from a two-lane asphalt road with open ditches to a four lane divided boulevard with curbs and gutters.

The extension of University Boulevard South from Commonwealth Boulevard to the termini of Riverstone Development was completed in February 2013. The project included a four-lane divided road with utilities, signals, decorative street lights and landscaping. Also added were sidewalks on both sides of the street, connecting residential areas to several amenities such as Sugar Land Memorial Park and Pawm Springs dog park.

The City received recognition on the University Boulevard South extension from the Texas Chapter of the American Public Works

Association for the 2013 Large Transportation Project of the Year. The award recognized excellence in the management and administration of Public Works projects by recognizing the alliance between contractors and the City in the development of the project.

Construction on University Boulevard North began in June.

University Boulevard North will extend from its current end point near
Sam's Club to U.S. Highway 90A when the project is complete in 2014.



#### Code Enforcement

The City of Sugar Land's Planning and Code Services Department helps to ensure a safe, beautiful and livable City through the enforcement of codes and standards that ensure well-planned, quality developments. Department divisions include development planning, code enforcement and the residential rental licensing program.

The City of Sugar Land makes sure neighborhoods and thoroughfares remain properly maintained and reflect the City's standards. The residential rental licensing program conducted more than 2,000 exterior inspections on homes being rented within the city, as well as interior inspections where warranted.

#### Permits and Inspections

The Permits and Inspections Department provides plan review and other permit and inspection services to residents to ensure code compliance in the development and redevelopment of buildings and their components. In 2013, staff:

- completed 18,482 inspections,
- issued 7,245 permits,
- reviewed 1,068 commercial plan and 49 irrigation plans,
- reviewed 1,042 residential plans and 410 irrigation plans, and
- contributed significant resources toward building code compliance.

#### PERMIT VALUATION & REVENUE:

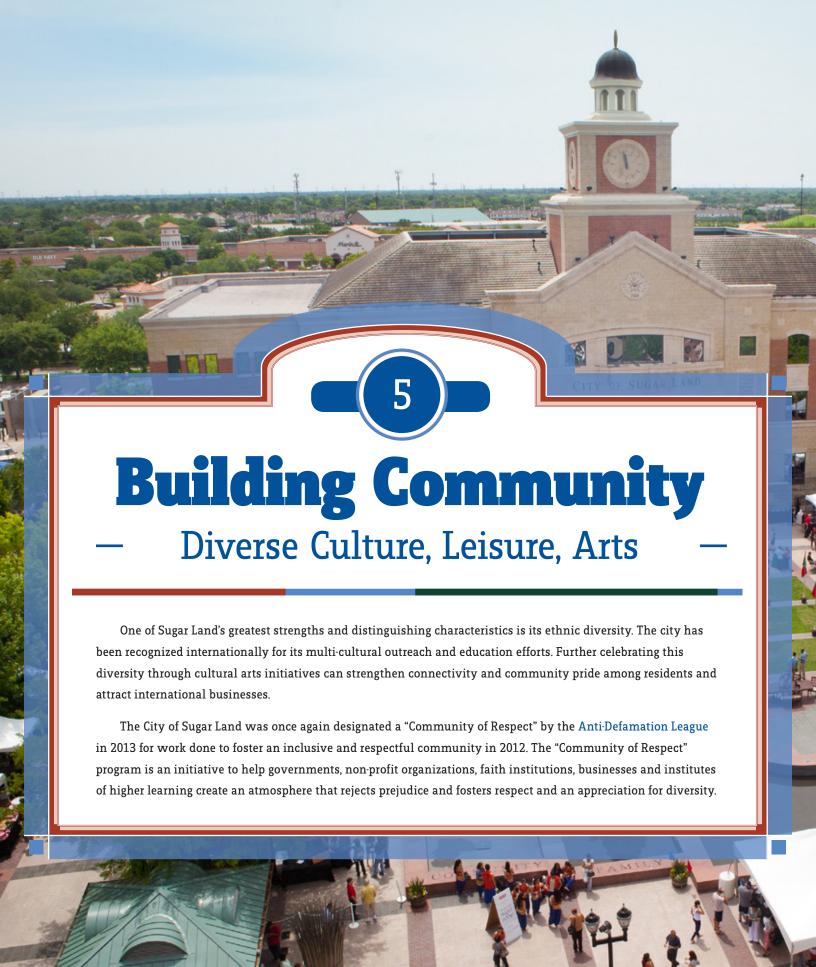
New single-family homes permitted	154
Average residential construction value	\$441,673
Total valuation permitted (residential and commercial)	\$344,651,655

#### HOUSING

Single-family homes	25,238
Multi-family units	1,985
Townhomes	747
Assisted Living units	798

#### LAND USE MIX

Residential	71.61%
Commercial	16.17%
Retail	12.22%





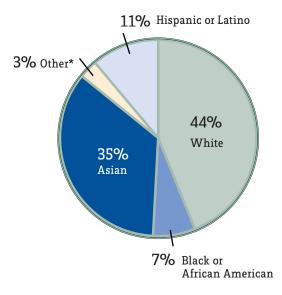
#### Multi-Cultural Program

The City of Sugar Land was a sponsor of the Fort Bend Education Foundation's International Festival and hosted a booth with an interactive map where attendees could pin their hometown. Booth attendees enjoyed the interactive map with representatives from all continents except Antarctica. In addition to employees who volunteer for the City's multi-cultural task force, Police Department personnel attended and engaged with event attendees.

Community members met to discuss the changing demographics in Sugar Land. A special meeting of the land use task force and the City Manager's multicultural advisory team was held at City Hall, with additional attendees from the community, staff and consultants.

DEMOGRAPHICS	
Median Age	41.2 years
Average Household Size	2.9 persons

\*Includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race and two or more races.



SOURCE: 2010 Census



A veterans memorial, acquired through the Sugar Land Legacy Foundation, was unveiled at Sugar Land Memorial Park. The memorial features an obelisk recognizing the branches of the military. After walking through a symbolic entryway and crossing a bridge to a peninsula, visitors are able to walk within the obelisk and experience rays of sunlight reflecting through a vertical opening. The names of Sugar Land residents who have died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces will be added to the monument in time for 2014's Memorial Day Celebration.

#### Community Engagement

The City has many opportunities for community engagement.

Community and neighborhood outreach increased in 2013. A quarterly homeowner association (HOA) meeting is held at City Hall, and the City works with HOAs to keep residents informed. City representatives attended homeowner association meetings as well.

The City utilizes a number of online avenues to reach residents. Social media, an online town hall and virtual meetings are important methods of making government accessible to all. In 2013, the City of Sugar Land Facebook page garnered 3,000 Likes. The City's Instagram and twitter pages also grew in popularity.

One way in which the City encourages the community to be involved in major updates or concerns in the community is to offer an online town hall. In this forum, a question can be posed and residents can reply with comments in a moderated forum. All of the comments are visible, encouraging interaction between the persons participating.

Virtual meetings have also been a way to engage people at home with their city government. City Council and Planning and Zoning meetings, as well as others, are televised on TV and online. During special community meetings, citizens can receive updates and ask questions through Facebook and Twitter.

MySL is an app for smart phones that was launched in 2013. This makes it easy for people on the go to connect to the City and have access to a number of convenient tools including reporting concerns.

#### Citizen Task Forces

Citizens participated in a variety of task forces in 2013, providing valuable guidance and input. A 100-member citizens' parks bond committee met from March to May for more than 700 hours to prioritize the projects, consider phasing opportunities and make funding recommendations for the proposed parks projects that were added to the ballot in November. The land use advisory committee was created to represent the interests of the community while providing feedback on the future Land Use Plan. Members of the traffic safety task force met last fall to hear public comment and provide recommendations to City Council on the use of red light cameras.

# Serve Sugar Land

The City's volunteer program is robust; 874 volunteers contributed 24,981 hours for an in-kind value of \$544,336. An online registration system allows residents to apply for Serve Sugar Land, which



encompasses the volunteer and citizen involvement programs. The registration system initially was for volunteers only, but in 2013 the system was expanded to enroll in citizen involvement programs as well. Once applicants are enrolled in Serve Sugar Land, they are able to select from a variety of opportunities that fit their schedules and match their interests. Volunteers are able to manage their schedules and track their volunteer service from a personalized webpage, thereby improving the volunteer experience. Animal Services, the T.E. Harman Center for seniors and the Parks and Recreation Department are just a few of the City departments that benefit from dedicated volunteers.

The Sugar Land 101 citizen academy was awarded a 2013 Savvy Award of Excellence for "Most Creative Activity with Least Dollars Spent." The Savvy Awards competition recognizes outstanding local government achievements in communications, public-sector marketing and citizen-government relationships.

#### New City Website

Community can also be built online. The City of Sugar Land launched a new redesigned website to make government more accessible to the public. The site offers a variety of new features that build on previous offerings such as live broadcasts of governmental meetings and a live stream of SLTV 16 municipal channel.

Now citizens can report problems and concerns by clicking on the "Report a Concern" link on the homepage. They will be taken to the "Ask City" tool to submit requests or complaints, view pending issues, reopen closed issues, request additional information and more.

A feature called \*myConnections enables users to have customized content at their fingertips after logging in. "Notify Me" allows visitors to sign up for email messages about community activities, meetings and other updates. Visitors can self-manage multiple subscriptions at once, helping make local government even more accessible and easy to find and use.

#### Parks and Recreation

# Special Events

Community events and programs enrich the lives of Sugar Land residents. Annual events include Eggstravaganza, the Cultural Kite Festival, Halloween Town, Winter Wonderland, Christmas Tree Lighting and New Year's Eve on the Square.

In 2013, the annual Fourth of July event took place for the first time in Constellation Field. The stadium accommodates a capacity of 10,500 and provides a safe alternative to Oyster Creek Park, the previous location, that lacks adequate infrastructure to host what has become a large-scale community event. Constellation Field provides adequate parking, restroom facilities and multiple entry points, amongst other advantages.

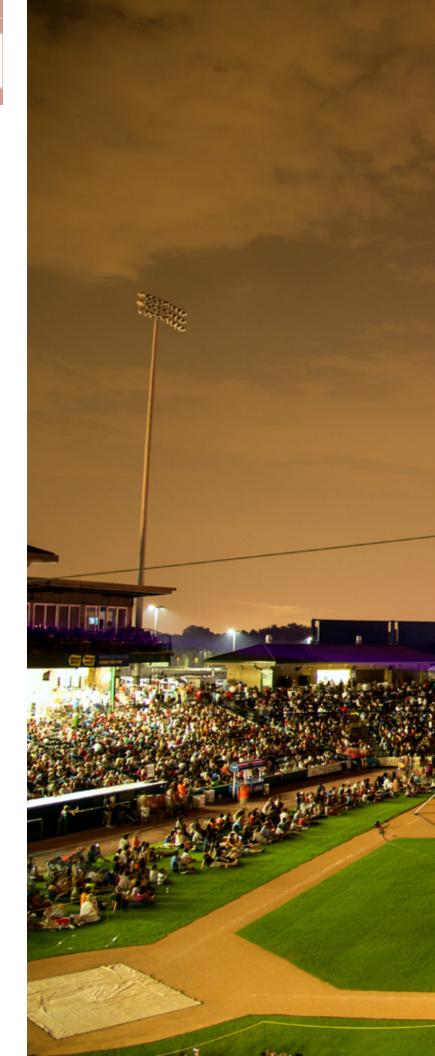
#### Imperial Park Recreation Center

Basketball leagues at the Imperial Park Recreation Center increased from 17 teams and 188 participants in 2012 to 44 teams and 454 participants in 2013. The weeklong Spring Break Camp had its highest enrollment to date with 21 participants.

For the first time, the Missoula Children's Theater held a weeklong workshop at the Imperial Park Recreation Center for Sugar Land children in September. Twenty-five residents ages 5-18 were cast in the play of the famous Brothers Grimm fairytale Rapunzel. The workshop offered an opportunity for kids to experience acting and performing for others.

#### T.E. Harman Center

Membership at the T.E. Harman Center tripled from 403 at the end of 2012 to 1,337 at the end of 2013. This is due in great part to an increase in the number of programs being offered. Seniors have an opportunity to take various levels of yoga, line dance, tai chi and other exercise classes. Games like mah jongg, bridge, dominoes and Scrabble as well as classes such as art, calligraphy and crocheting keep minds active. Monthly potlucks and occasional outings offer a chance for deeper bonds to be made. Additionally, the center offers various special events for its membership that provide socialization and entertainment opportunities.







## Beautiful City Parks

People value the time they spend in parks, whether walking a dog, playing basketball or having a picnic. Along with these expected leisure amenities, parks can also provide measurable health benefits, from providing direct contact with nature and a cleaner environment to opportunities for physical activity and social interaction.

City parks offer adults and children the benefits of direct experience with nature – the motivation to explore, discover and learn about their world and to engage in health-promoting physical activity. Parks teach children in informal, experiential learning and creativity through play and shared experiences with peers, laying the foundation for effective formal education.

In addition to the programs that are offered through the Parks Department, maintenance and repairs are essential to the operation of the parks. The maintenance division has 10 employees divided into three crews. Each crew is responsible for two or three major community parks and six or seven smaller neighborhood parks. As a whole, the maintenance and operations program is responsible for maintaining 562 developed acres across 27 park locations that contain the following assortment of recreation amenities:

- 135 acres irrigated
- 31 acres of lakes
- 22 soccer fields
- 18 playgrounds

- 15 miles of trails
- 14 baseball fields
- 14 pavilions/picnic shelters
- 9 softball fields

- 9 volley ball courts
- 9 concessions stands



The passage of the two propositions reaffirms that residents believe the projects are important to Sugar Land's quality of life and economic prosperity,

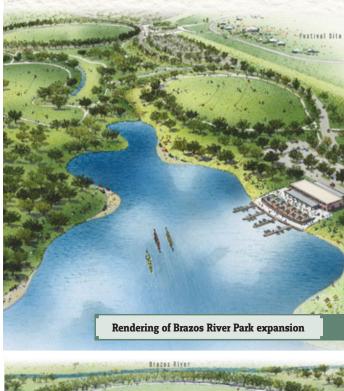
Many of the key attributes of the City of Sugar Land that citizens overwhelmingly identify as "things they like about Sugar Land" are parks, trails, recreation opportunities, beautiful landscapes and the quality of life components that are synonymous with the facilities, programs, services, events and goals of the City.

## Major New Parks Projects

Sugar Land residents approved \$31.5 million for two major new parks projects in November. The projects include 128 acres of new parkland along the Brazos River with an adjacent festival site and a connecting network of nearly 10 miles of hike and bike trails and bridges. Voters opted against the use of property taxes to fund a future 65-acre major community park located at Chatham Avenue and Easton Avenue.

The passage of the two propositions reaffirms that residents believe the projects are important to Sugar Land's quality of life and economic prosperity. Parks and green spaces are important because they provide residents with places to be engaged in activities that encourage community interaction. They also provide a sense of place and offer essential life-enhancing qualities that aid in the well-being of both the individual and the community.

The festival site will accommodate large-scale events like the City's annual Fourth of July celebration and other cultural and entertainment events that benefit the local economy. The comprehensive network of hike and bike trails will connect existing trails throughout the City to address recreational and mobility needs. The projects should be completed within two and seven years.







Rendering of a future bicycle and pedestrian bridge

